

# THE GLEN ESTE GAZETTE

September 2007

Kevin S. Thacker, Principal \*\* Glen Este Middle School \*\* 4342 Glen Este-Withamsville Rd. \*\* Cincinnati, Ohio 45245 \*\* 947-7700  
GEMS website: www.westcler.org/gm

Dear Parents,

I would like to take the time to thank everyone for helping make our start with the students one of the best that I can remember. The staff has been focused on their instruction and meeting the goals that I set for our building and the students have been wonderful to work with. We've been blessed this year to have such a polite group of kids. Their attitude has really made it easier.

With the start of every school year, I establish goals and expectations for our teachers in regards to student learning and achievement. I developed a plan for our teachers that focus on what we are calling the 4 R's. Each of the 4 R's have specific actions that we are taking which we know will have a positive affect on our students. The first R stands for developing positive relationships with the students and getting to know them personally and academically. The teachers have developed common routines to help the students transition from one class to the next. We've aligned our instruction and assessments to the appropriate level of rigor (difficulty). Additionally, teachers are focusing on making the lessons relevant to students so that they can connect the lesson to their every day lives. Out of the 4 R's, the most important of the four is relationships. Getting to know each student personally and academically is the foundation to student achievement. Each teacher received a data folder, which I titled, "The Critical Care Binder." This binder contains the necessary data and information to help the teachers get to know each of the students on their team. In addition to student data, the "Critical Care" binder contains other valuable information to help them meet expectations in regards to the other 3R's.

Our primary goal for this school year is to increase student achievement in reading and math as measured by the OAT. We are particularly focused on making sure that our special needs students make the necessary gains to score proficient or better on the OAT.

The staff and I feel confident that we are on the right path for improving student learning. I want to thank everyone for your support in helping me and the staff get this year started positively with your children. Your encouragement means a great deal to all of us and is greatly appreciated.

## School Fees Due Now!

Please don't forget to pay your school fees as soon as possible. School fees are \$35.00 per child. Checks should be made payable to Glen Este Middle School (or GEMS). **Note: school fees must be paid before students can attend skating parties, dances, etc.** If you need to make arrangements to pay the fees in installments, contact **Mrs. Terris** at 947-7708. (Please include your child's ID # on the check.)

## IMPORTANT DATES

### September

- 17 - Team 6-1 Student/Parent Lunch
- 18 - Team 6-2 Student/Parent Lunch
- 19 - Team 6-3 Student/Parent Lunch
- 20 - 6th Grade Skating Party, 6:30-8:30, Beechmont Rollerena
- 28 - No School - Teacher Inservice

### October

- 4 - PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Library
- 17 - PTO Fundraiser Begins
- 19 - 7th/8th Grade Dance, 7-9 p.m., MPR
- 26 - 1st Quarter Ends
- 26 - Picture Retakes
- 30 - Washington, D.C. Trip Meeting for Student & Parents, 7 p.m., Gym

### Attendance

Please refrain from late arrivals or early dismissals unless there are unavoidable circumstances or emergencies. For an "excused" tardy, students must bring a note, signed by the parent, stating an appropriate reason for the tardy. (See pages 125 in the student handbook for a complete listing of valid excused absences set by the board of education.) A student who arrives at school tardy without an excuse note is charged with an "unexcused tardy". A tardy will also be marked against a student if they leave school before 2:15.

### Homework Requests

Homework requests may be made when students have missed two or more days. Parents can request homework on the 24-hour Attendance Line (947-7704). Please allow 24 hours notice for teachers to prepare assignments. Students will be allowed two days for each day missed to complete assignments.

### Free and Reduced Lunch Program

The rollover for the free and reduced lunch program ends September 28, 2008. If your child is eligible for this program, a new form **MUST** be submitted by September 21, 2008 in order to stay eligible. Please submit your forms as soon as possible.

### Glen Este Middle School Mission Statement:

The Glen Este Middle School staff is committed to empowering all students in a safe environment for changes and challenges of the 21st century, through a shared responsibility between home, school, and community.

## SPORTS NEWS

Fall sports at Glen Este Middle School are in full swing. Please try to come out and support the football, cross country and volleyball teams! Go to [www.westcler.org/gm](http://www.westcler.org/gm) for team schedules and directions to other schools. Admission is \$4 for adults and \$2 for students.

### Cross Country

The cross country team is running strong! The boys have taken 1st place at Western Brown and 2nd at Bethel-Tate. The girls are not far behind. The team is young this year but strongly motivated! Come watch our runners at the New Richmond Invitational on Sat., Sept. 22 at 4:30 p.m. at New Richmond..

### Football

Both the 7th and 8th grade football teams are 2-0! Come out and support the teams Thursday, September 20, here at Glen Este against Winton Woods. An exciting game is expected!

### Volleyball

The 7th grade volleyball team has a record of 5-2 and the 8th grade team is 4-3. Check out these upcoming volleyball games: Wed., Sept. 19 against Nagel B team at GEMS at 4:30 p.m. and Mon., Sept. 24 against Harrison at GEMS at 4:30 p.m.

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## CLUB NEWS

### Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) is an after-school club that gives athletes and non-athletes alike the opportunity to do service projects throughout the school and community. Their goal is to impact our school through integrity, teamwork and excellence. FCA meets on Fridays until 3:30 in room 302. FCA is open to students in all grades. Meetings begin in October. Students should listen to announcements for the exact date. Contact Ms. Erin Kurtz, club advisor, at 947-7775 or [kurtz\\_e@westcler.org](mailto:kurtz_e@westcler.org) for additional information.

### Sign Language Club

Sign Language Club begins Wednesday, October 17 after school until 3:30 P.M. in room 346. All students are welcome to come and learn to "let your hands do the talking." Contact Ms. Jennie Schwalbach, club advisor, at [schwalbach\\_j@westcler.org](mailto:schwalbach_j@westcler.org), for more information.

### National Junior Honor Society

NJHS will meet twice a month, on select Tuesdays, after school until 3:15. Listen to announcements for the exact date. Advisors are Mr. Trent Davis and Mrs. Eileen Gorman.

### Chess Club

Chess Club will have their first meeting on Tuesday, October 2 until 3:15. Chess Club is open to all players, from beginner to advanced. Mr. Steve Brungs is club advisor.

### Student Council

Student Council campaigning will take place between September 12 and September 26. Elections will be held on September 27. Meetings will be every other Thursday until 3:30 in room 341 (officers will meet weekly). Students should listen to announcements for more information. Mrs. Cindy Leazer is Student Council advisor.

## PTO NEWS

*Next PTO Meeting:*

**Thursday, October 4, 2007 @ 6:30 p.m.**

***GEMS Library***

### 2007-2008 PTO Board Officers

*President - Joy Hickey*

*Vice-President - Lynette Beach*

*2nd Vice-President - Kim Zitt*

*Recording Secretary - Allison Jones*

*Corresponding Secretary - Carol Adkins*

*Treasurer - Melanie Sturgeon*

### Membership Drive

The PTO membership drive is still underway! Please join us by being active in our school through the PTO. Membership is only \$5.00 for a family. Pick up a membership form in the office or on the school website under the PTO link. PTO meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 P.M. in the school library.

### Fall Fundraiser

The Otis Spunkmeyer Cookie Dough Fundraiser will begin Wednesday, October 17 and end Friday, November 2. Please support GEMS in this highly successful fundraising program.

### 6th Grade Skating Party

There will be a 6th grade skating party on Thursday, September 20 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Beechmont Rollerena. Tickets will be sold Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during 6th grade lunch time in the MPR lobby. Tickets cost \$3.00.

### Email PTO!

**Contact PTO with any questions or concerns by going to [www.westcler.org/gm](http://www.westcler.org/gm) and clicking on the PTO link!**

### Need Help With Homework?

Homework Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:15 until 3:15 p.m. in room 324. Teachers are present to assist students. This service is free to students and is sponsored by **Glen Este Middle School PTO**. Students must bring a permission note with them signed by a parent plus a desire to work! Students are not required to come to every session. Just show up as needed!

### Fernside Group

Fernside is a national leader in providing grief support services and outreach and education. They specifically address the unique needs of children. The guidance counselors at Glen Este Middle School are offering a grief group, facilitated by Fernside, for students who have lost a loved one. If you would like your child to be a part of this group, please call Kim Orelemann at 947-7712.

### After-School Bowling League

Cherry Grove Lanes after-school bowling league begins October 4. Students will bowl every Thursday for 10 weeks. Transportation will be provided by Petermann Bus Service, picking the students up at the school gymnasium and transporting them to the bowling center. Parents must pick students up by 5:30 p.m. Registration forms have been sent home with students. More forms are available in the school office.